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And science finds its home not merely with the leisure class and the rich, but as recently seen in striking form in the platforms of parties like those of British Labor Group. Suppression of truth or what might be truth will become increasingly distasteful to many, and more difficult for those who attempt to compass it.

The significance of Mr. Chafee's well-wrought, although by no means exhaustive or comprehensive, work lies in the value of the appeal to law rather than to force, to an established tribunal and a process of formal reason rather than to the violence of a mob or the swift and silent seizure by the despot. Judge Abrams is better than Judge Lynch, but Judge Brandeis' calm reason is better than either, when he says in *Gilbert v. Minnesota*, "In frank expression of conflicting opinions lies the greatest promise of wisdom in governmental action, and in suppression lies ordinarily the greatest peril."

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*A Study of Women Delinquents in New York State.* By MABEL R. FERNALD, MARY H. S. HAYES, and ALMENA DAWLEY, with statistical chapter by BEARDSLEY RUMI and a Preface by KATHARINE B. DAVIS. Publications of the Bureau of Social Hygiene. New York: The Century Company, 1920. Pp. 542. \$5.00.

This full-packed book has its chief distinction in being an exhibition of method. Here we have six groups of women (four hundred and eighty-five from five institutions and one hundred and two on probation) about whom figures are given concerning age, offenses, convictions, nativity, school and work records, mentality as ascertained on various groups of tests, social status, etc., figures expanded and summarized, figures given plain and with coefficients of correlations, figures of totals and of comparisons between the main groups and between white and colored, English speaking and non-English speaking, and hundreds of points besides.

Its work is well done. The figures before and after statistical computations of correlations (e.g., "Mean Age of Father at Subject's Birth,  $32.95 \pm .562$ ;  $\sigma$   $10.50 \pm .397$ ," and there are many other equally refined statistics) are not unduly interpreted. An attitude of fairness and of caution of statement pervades the book. Indeed, the authors point out in the start the limitations of their mass method which they have chosen because it was applicable to their data. "The great advantage of the case history method is the fact that it presents a picture of

the whole personality, which the present type of study fails to show. In our opinion both types of study should be used since each can throw light on the other." And Dr. Davis in her Preface states, too, that without more extended studies of the general population accurate comparisons with delinquent groups are impossible.

To the reviewer's mind, even more important is the acknowledgment: "It should be remembered that the women delinquents regarding whom we offer information are those convicted of legal offenses, through due process of law: and that they do not include those closely related cases who offend in essentially the same way but escape arrest and conviction." This comes late in the book, but in statistical studies of delinquents in institutions and, even more necessary, when making statements about sex offenders, it should be the honest start of discussion, set forth in large type, and it should never be lost sight of in any heading or conclusion, because of the citations that will be continually made from the text of such statistical works. The point is that these are merely studies of a few *caught* offenders—what are the characteristics of offenders who rarely if ever are caught and convicted? It is the difference between success and failure in evading the law. A Massachusetts public commission gave out findings on prostitutes in publications based on seeing or interviewing women. What women could or would be seen? Of course, only those who had been jailed the night before or who were willing to be talked to on the streets, and so on. The findings, 50 per cent or more apparently feeble-minded, are significant enough, but they have been widely quoted as if they covered the facts about women sex offenders. It must never be forgotten in compiling any tables that it is the bright, the clever, the attractive, the woman from a background that has taught her *savoir faire* who can do many things and not be caught in the trammels of the law. And there are many analogous situations in other fields of delinquency.

This book, then, is a statistical table of certain conditions only, not even the physical conditions, of a comparatively small number (for statistics) of women offenders in one state. Figures are mulled over and over because these particular data were available, and the outcome is a well-ordered, fair-minded exhibition of training in technic as an ideal.

In the summary with its very few conclusions one is struck by the statements of the slightness of distinctions that can be fairly drawn. For instance:

The most that we are prepared to say is that, other things being equal, there is apparently a greater presumption in favor of delinquency in a group

of women who are below the average in intelligence than in a group above the average.

(And this, too, means delinquency detected and *convicted*.) Again, when speaking of *all* the general influences associated with delinquency:

Nevertheless, when we turn to any specific comparison, involving these factors in relation to some aspect of delinquency, we are even more impressed by the smallness of the relationships than by the fact of their existence. Even when we compare the delinquent group with the general population we find relatively slight distinctions and much overlapping.

More important for those of a slightly older school of reading is, however, the one outstanding conclusion of these authors—it follows close on the foregoing citation:

The evidence available indicates very strongly, however, that even with fuller data we should still be dealing with small differences. This suggests, further, that any search for a well-defined type of individual, appearing as the delinquent woman, will probably be fruitless. Apparently the concept of such a type can not be saved even by expanding it beyond Lombroso's anthropological criminal type and pruning off certain of the absurdities incorporated in his idea.

The reviewer, perhaps through temperament, but also, he hopes, through judgment cultivated during years of practical observation concerning reconstructive possibilities, cannot, for sociologists particularly, allow it to be unsaid that this work of fine method, with its 542 tersely texted pages, its 223 tables, and 46 charts, offers nothing whatever, unless it may be by way of negative conclusions or most indirectly, either concerning the solution of the situation in general or concerning reforming the life of any one delinquent in particular. And if it is not calculated to directly further a better achievement, what is such extensive and expensive effort worth in the field of delinquency and crime?

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*The Control of Ideals: A Contribution to the Study of Ethics.* By H. B. VAN WESEP. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1920. Pp. 154. \$2.00.

"As a contribution to ethics, this book represents an attempt at a fresh approach to some old problems. The aim has been to limit the discussion to fundamental issues connected with the preservation of war. Abstruse and hackneyed terms peculiar to ethics or economics